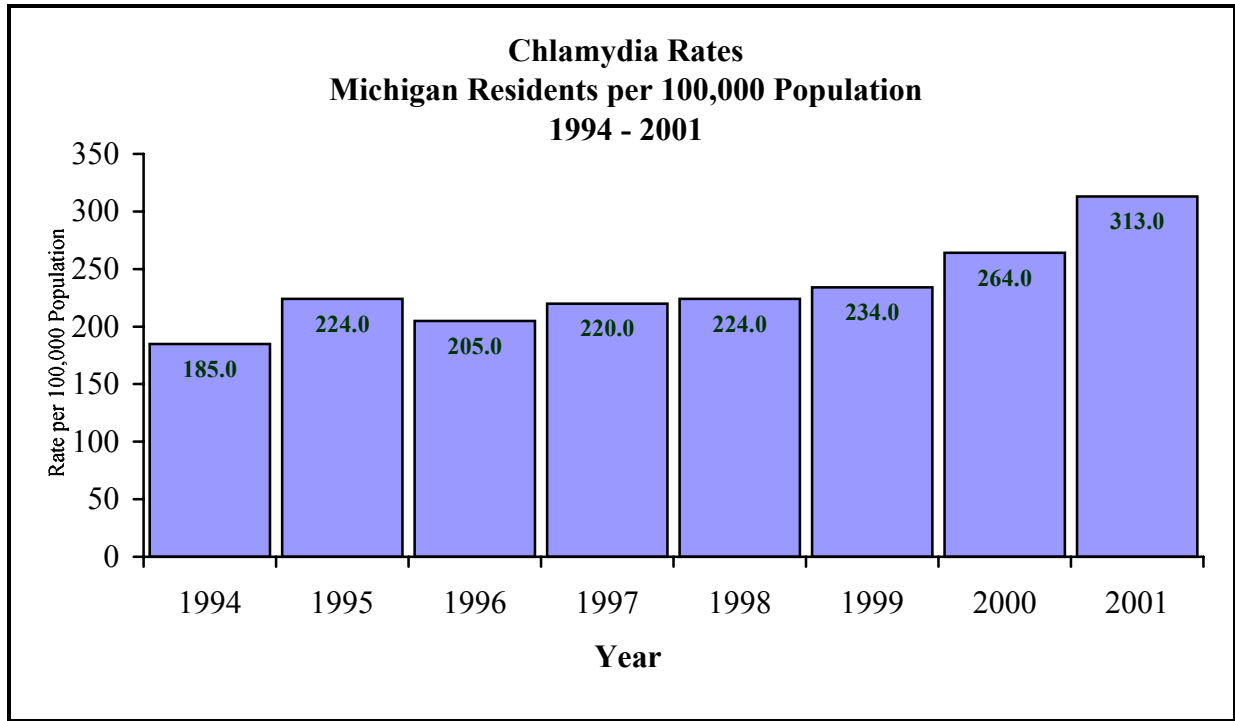


Focused Indicators
Morbidity and Mortality
Chlamydia



Source: MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology

For additional statistics on reported sexually transmitted diseases go to:

<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/index.asp?Id=12>

How are we doing?

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection predominately spread through sexual contact. It is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in the U.S., responsible for an estimated four million cases each year. Chlamydia can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

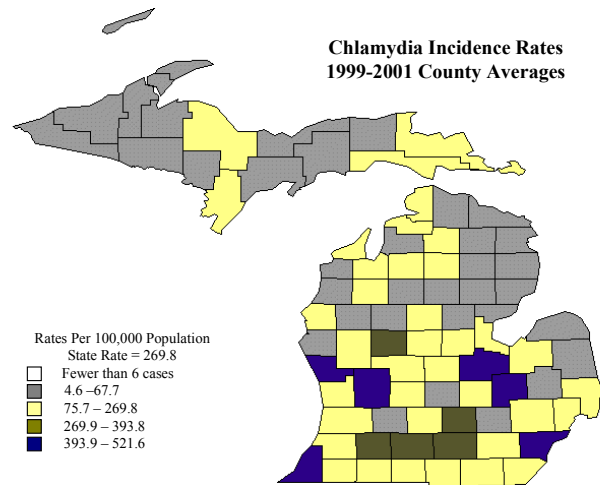
In Michigan, reporting for chlamydia began in 1992. Although the rates of chlamydia have increased since then, this may be due to the results of improved reporting and increased testing, particularly for women. However, testing in men still lags behind. In 2001, there were 31,090 reported cases of chlamydia. The rate of chlamydia incidence was 313 per 100,000 population. As reporting continues to improve, future rates are expected to be greater, but may more accurately reflect actual incidence in both men and women. Eventually, with sufficient diagnosis and treatment, rates should decrease.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

In 2001, Michigan's chlamydia rate of 313 was higher than the U.S. rate of 278, reflecting better testing and reporting.

How are different populations affected?

Women 20-24 years old have the highest number of reported cases with 9,337 in 2001. This represents approximately 38 percent of the 24,550 reported cases of chlamydia for women in 2001. There were only 6,540 cases reported for men in Michigan. Because screening targets females, who have more complications, female rates are higher than for men. Rates are even higher for Hispanics and much higher for African Americans.



What other information is important to know?

Chlamydia infection results in increased health care cost, especially among women. Chlamydia is the most common cause of infertility due to blocked fallopian tubes and complications of pregnancy. Perinatal chlamydia infections are a common cause of infant pneumonia and the most common cause of newborn eye infections.

New, more sensitive testing methodology may result in more men being tested, diagnosed, and treated for Chlamydia. As testing and reporting continue to improve, it can be expected that future rates will more accurately reflect actual incidence of Chlamydia.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?

The department is actively working to decrease the prevalence of chlamydia and its health consequences. The department participates in the national Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) and has established screening sites in family planning, adolescent health, and sexually transmitted disease clinics. These sites are involved in testing and targeting those at high-risk, such as persons aged 15-24, those with symptoms, or those exposed to chlamydia. Infected patients are treated and counseled regarding the need for sexual partner examination. The department distributed drugs for local health department use and also provides presentations on the chlamydia epidemic in Michigan that explain the consequences and related costs of untreated disease.

The Adolescent Health Services Program goal is to achieve the best possible physical, intellectual, and emotional status of adolescents by providing services of high quality, accessible, and acceptable to youth. The Adolescent Health Program provides base funding support through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to 22 clinical teen health centers (THCs) in Michigan. The clinical teen health center model, through either school-based or linked health centers, provides on-site primary health care, psycho-social services, health promotion/disease prevention education and referral services to youth 10-21 years of age. In calendar year 2002, the total number of teens receiving services through the clinical THCs was 16,623. Each state-funded THC is required to provide STD diagnosis and treatment as part of their minimum services, including diagnosis and treatment for chlamydia.

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